

County of Moore
Department of Health
705 Pinehurst Avenue • P.O. Box 279
Carthage, North Carolina 28327

Robert R. Wittmann, M.P.H.
Director

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Release: Immediate
Contact: Al Carter, Director
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Health Department Confirms First Cases of Rabies for 2012

Moore County Animal Operations, along with the Health Department have reported the latest case of rabies, which is the second case in Moore County this year. Both cases involved raccoons that tested positive for the disease.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that attacks the central nervous system of warm-blooded animals. In North Carolina, it is most common in raccoons. Other carriers are foxes, skunks and bats, which carry a different strain of the disease.

North Carolina Law requires owners of dogs, cats and ferrets to have their pets vaccinated against rabies by four months of age. Vaccinations are essential to protect pets against rabies and are the first line of defense against human infections. One shot is not enough. Vaccines must be kept up to date.

In addition to keeping your pets' rabies vaccinations current, Moore County Animal Operations recommend the following:

- Keep pets indoors. Supervise pets outside, and abide by all local leash laws.
- Do not feed pets outside. Pet food attracts wildlife that may carry rabies.
- Do not approach or feed wildlife, feral cats or feral dogs.
- Secure garbage cans with wildlife-proof lids.

Three-year rabies vaccinations are available from any local veterinarian. One-year shots are available at the Animal Center of Moore County for a five dollar fee. Call the Animal Center at 947-2858 for details.

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"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

Environmental Health
Telephone: 910-947-6283
Fax: 910-947-5127

Animal Center
Telephone: 910-947-2858
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Telephone: 910-947-3271
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For more information about rabies, contact Moore County Animal Operations at 947-2858 or visit the N.C. Veterinary Public Health website at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/rabies.html>.

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